

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**RECORD OF DECISION and FINAL Supplemental EIS**  
**Bozeman Municipal Watershed Project**  
**USDA-Forest Service**  
**Gallatin National Forest-Bozeman Ranger District**  
**Bozeman, Montana**  
**Gallatin County**

As the Responsible Official, Forest Supervisor, Mary C. Erickson signed a Record of Decision on November 29, 2011 approving the Bozeman Municipal Watershed Project. Alternative 6 with minor changes was selected. With this project the Gallatin National Forest intends to create vegetation and fuel conditions that will reduce the risk of excess sediment and ash, resulting from a wildfire event, from reaching the municipal water treatment plant. The decision authorizes treatment on 4,675 acres with a combination of partial cutting and prescribed burning. Alternative 6 was developed to respond to changed economic conditions between the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and FEIS, and to respond to public comments on the DEIS. The decision also reflects consideration of court decisions since March 2010, agency input and our response to issues raised during the administrative appeal processes in the spring of 2010 and 2011. The previous decisions were withdrawn.

The Final EIS (March 2010), Final SFEIS (November 2011) and Record of Decision are available on the Gallatin Forest Webpage at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/gallatin> under Land & Resources Management then Projects. Copies are also available upon request from the Bozeman Ranger District, 3710 Fallon St., Ste. C, Bozeman, MT 59718, (406) 522-2520.

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.

The appeal must be filed (regular mail, fax, email, hand delivery, or express delivery) in writing with the Appeal Deciding Officer at: USDA Forest Service, Northern Region, ATTN: Appeal Deciding Officer, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807; or USDA Forest Service, Northern Region, ATTN: Appeal Deciding Officer, 200 East Broadway, Missoula, MT 59802. Office hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday excluding holidays. Fax (406) 329- 3411, ATTN: Appeal Deciding Officer. Electronic appeals must be submitted to: <appeals-northern-regional-office@fs.fed.us>. In electronic appeals, the subject line should contain the name of the project being appealed. Please put APPEAL: Bozeman Municipal Watershed in the subject line. An automated response should confirm your electronic appeal has been received. Electronic appeals must be submitted in MS Word, Word Perfect, or Rich Text Format (RTF). In cases where no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

Appeals, including attachments, must be filed within the 45 days from the publication date of this notice in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Bozeman, Montana. It is the responsibility of the appellant to ensure their appeal is received in a timely manner. Attachments received after the 45 day appeal period will not be considered. The publication date of the legal notice of the decision in the newspaper of record (Bozeman Daily Chronicle) is the *exclusive* means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Appellants should not rely on date or timeframe information provided by any other source (36 CFR 215.15).

Only individuals or organizations that submitted comments or otherwise expressed interest during the comment period for the DEIS and SFEIS (May 2010) may appeal this project (36 CFR 215.13). It is the appellant's responsibility to provide sufficient project- or activity-specific evidence and rationale, focusing on the decision, to show why the decision should be reversed. The appeal must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 215.14.

If no appeal is received, implementation of this decision may occur on, but not before, five business days from the close of the appeal filing period. If an appeal is received, implementation may not occur for 15 days following the date of appeal disposition.

*Offer to Meet.* If an appeal is received on this project there may be informal resolution meetings and/or conference calls between the Responsible Official and the appellant. These discussions would take place within 15 days after the closing date for filing an appeal. All such meetings are open to the public. If you are interested in attending any informal resolution discussions, please contact the Responsible Official or monitor the following website for postings about current appeals in the Northern Region of the Forest Service: [eal-meetings"http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r1/appeal-meetings](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r1/appeal-meetings).

For additional information concerning this decision or the Forest Service appeal process, contact Teri Seth, NEPA Team Leader, Gallatin National Forest Bozeman Ranger District (406)522-2520.